

October 3, 2021  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 2, pp. 130 - 132

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., OCT. 3      NINETEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST  
8:30 A.M.      DIVINE LITURGY  
+ Mary Poiarkoff, offered by James Mudron

SUN., OCT. 10      **\*\* NO DIVINE LITURGY AT ST. GEORGE \*\***

Next Sunday, October 10, there will be a Combined Parishes  
Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Church at 9:30 A.M  
See announcement below.

**Anniversary Liturgy and Luncheon Next Sunday**

Next Sunday, October 10, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Deacon Tom's ordination with a combined parishes Divine Liturgy at **St. Mary in Ambridge at 9:30 AM.** Deacon Gregory Loya from the Dormition of The Mother of God parish in Cleveland, Ohio will be concelebrating with Deacon Tom and will be the homilist for the Liturgy. Deacon Gregory and Deacon Tom were classmates at the Seminary from 2005 – 2010 during their academic studies for the diaconate. There will be a reception in the parish hall following the liturgy with a luncheon of halupki, haluski, sandwiches, desserts, soft drinks, and a mimosa bar. Please plan to attend as we continue to be thankful for Deacon Tom's service to our parishes and the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. May God grant to his servant Deacon Tom many happy and blessed years. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. **Please sign up today if you plan on attending.**

**Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:**

October 4: Gladys Chabala, October 9: Charles Hagan

**Wedding Anniversaries this Week:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Betty Polas, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

**Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074) – Ann Trombulak

**Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Josephine Maruhnich

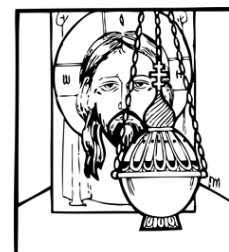
**Beaver Valley Nursing and Rehab** (257 Georgetown Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010) – Betty Polas

**Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005) – Carol Huchko

**Epistle Readers – Oct. 3: JoAnn Hersh – Oct. 17: Louisa Hersh**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – Oct. 3: Francis Hersh – Oct. 17: R. Mudron**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

October 3 – 9, 2021

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ Martha Pratchenko

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Mary Elizabeth Olack

**From the Desert Fathers: Venerable father Anthony the Great**

*Do you want true intelligence? Then book learning isn't enough; you must also have spiritual knowledge. This includes being able to tell the difference between what is good and what is evil. Then you must avoid what is sinful and harmful to your soul and, with thanks to God, carefully keep what is good and what benefits your soul. If you do that, you are truly intelligent.*

**Glory to Jesus Christ ~ Glory Forever!**

**Слава Исусу Христу! ~ Слава на вики!**

## Pirohi Sales return this Friday, October 8

Our Pirohi Sales return this Friday, October 8. This is a very important tradition for our St. George Church. Plan on purchasing your dinners from our pirohi sales on the second Friday of each month. **We can't do this project without your help and support. We encourage all who are able to please come and help. Work days are Monday 9:00 AM, Tuesday 9:00 AM, and Thursday 9:00 AM. Friday we begin at 6:30 AM. Our Pirohi Project takes a lot of help to make it a success.** Spread the word and please **come and help**, if you can, any of the days you are able. Orders should be called in by Thursdays at noon at (724) 375-6652. Thank you!



### Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church

On November 4 & 5, 2021, the Assembly of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church will be held at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, PA. It is designed with eminently qualified presenters and presentations of vital significance. We live in an unprecedented time of lives disrupted by the covid pandemic. This assembly offers an opportunity for us to together grow spiritually and begin to bring ourselves and our Church into a time of renewed interest, growth, and participation. Topics include "Look Back: Looking Ahead with a Hopeful Heart (Dcn. Tom Shubeck); Our Worship Post Pandemic (Fr. Valerian Michlik & Fr. Andrew Summerson); The Eucharist: Holy Gifts to Holy People (Bishop Kurt Burnette); and Growing Parishes Post Pandemic (Dcn. Basil Balke). If anyone is interested in attending, our ECF program will organize a group to attend. Please see JoAnn Hersh for more information.

### St. Francis Day Blessing of Pets: at St. Mary

**"Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures!"** Today, **October 3, from 1:00-3:00 PM**, in honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (which is Oct 4), Fr. Geoff will be available for a **Blessing of Pets**. This will be held at St. Mary Church on the lawn near the Theotokos Shrine (or under the awning if it rains). Parishioners, friends, and neighbors alike can bring their pets (on leashes, please!) any time between 1:00 and 3:00 for a blessing.

### Catholic Philosopher Peter Kreeft to Speak in Pittsburgh

Distinguished Roman Catholic philosopher and author, Dr. Peter Kreeft, will speak on "First Principles to Survive in a World Gone Mad" at Brother Andre's Cafe, a ministry of Divine Mercy Parish, 164 Washington Place, Pittsburgh, on Saturday, October 9, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Dr. Kreeft, a convert to Catholicism from evangelicalism, is the author of over 80 books, including, *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, *The Unaborted Socrates*, *Ecumenical Jihad*, *Prayer for Beginners*, *Socrates Meets Jesus*, *Between Allah and Jesus* and *Forty Reasons I am a Catholic*. This is a part of the parish's *Profundum Speaker Series*. Cost: \$20 (with optional \$10 lunch). To register: [divinemercypgh.org/profundum](http://divinemercypgh.org/profundum).

**During this Respect Life Month that our resolve will be strengthened to cherish and protect the gift of every human life; We pray to the Lord: Lord have Mercy.**

## A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This week the clergy of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh will be gathering for our annual retreat. Last year's retreat was canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic, so we are fortunate to be able to meet again this year. In the Gospel of Mark we read:

*"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed, 'Everyone is looking for you!'"* (Mark 1.35-37)

If Jesus, who is God incarnate, found it necessary to take time to find quiet and solitude to pray, how much do the rest of us need this time to be with the Lord? Modern lives are very busy. Business, family obligations, house work, social engagements, and the many practicalities of life can keep us hopping from one task to another. We need to be "productive," and our lives will take as much of us as we're willing to spend.

It becomes necessary, then, for us to be intentional about taking time to slow down. In the Old Covenant, God commanded a day of rest on the Sabbath. And while we don't want to become legalistic about it, we know that if we do not take time to slow down, pray, and attend to the things of God, we will become "detached," as it were, from the things of the Lord. If we neglect our spiritual life we shouldn't be surprised if we wake up one morning and don't have one!

Of course life is different from person to person and family to family. There are different demands and expectations placed on each of us. But let us consider how we might be able to take a few moments each day -- and longer periods on occasion -- to stop the merry-go-round of our lives and pay attention to the Lord's presence to us in the words of the Scriptures, and in the "still small voice" (1 Kings 19.12) of silence and solitude.

And, of your kindness, please remember the priests of our Metropolia who will gather this week for prayer, reflection, and restoration. Your prayers on our behalf are what uphold us in our various ministries!

Your brother in Christ,

*Fr. Geoff*



***Pirohi Sales return this Friday, October 8!***

## Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### GOSPEL: LUKE 6:31 - 36

*The Lord said, “Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them. And if you love those who love you, what merit have you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what merit have you? For even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive in return, what merit have you? For even sinners lend to sinners that they may get back as much in return. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, not hoping for any return, and your reward shall be great, and you shall be children of the Most High, for He is kind towards the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful.”*



Once again, St. Luke reveals the abiding mercy of God as a major theme of his Gospel. He challenges the Christian to go beyond the conventional thinking about love and mercy – that we love those who love us, forgive those who forgive us, and lend to those whom we are certain will pay us back. Reflecting Jesus, St. Luke breaks through to a new and radical approach - love your enemies, do good to those who may have hurt you, lend to those from whom you're not certain of payback. He goes even further - if someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him your other; and if a person steals your coat, give him your shirt as well. We read these passages and wonder if St. Luke is serious. Moreover, does Jesus really expect this kind of behavior from us? It seems so unrealistic and naïve. It deprives us of the satisfaction of revenge, our unspoken instinct to put into practice “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” Logically, to respond to our enemy in kind teaches an important lesson. For Jesus, this is the wrong lesson. Think of how we expect God to repeatedly and compassionately forgive us our sins, great and small, while at the same time we strike out at our enemies to exact vengeance for their sins. Jesus tells us that such a merciless response misses the very heart of Christian discipleship. He instructs us in clear and unambiguous language: “Be merciful, as your heavenly Father is merciful.” As difficult and challenging as it may be to love and embrace our enemies, rather than hate and destroy them, Jesus meant what He said, in the terms that He said it. This is not mere poetry of “Bible talk” to be diluted or explained away. Jesus expects us to be merciful and compassionate to those we love and especially to those who seem beyond the reach of our caring. All of us have someone like that in our lives. Today's Gospel passage summons us to make our hearts as deep and wide as is the heart of God Himself. We are to become His sons and daughters, more Christ-like, precisely because instead of the impulse to strike back, we revealed His face of mercy to a hurting human being. To the God of mercy and compassion be honor and glory this day and forevermore!

*Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them.*

## **Christ, the Physician of Souls and Bodies New Resources Today, October 3**

We are excited to share with you our many *CATECHETICAL RESOURCES* for the renewal of our Eastern Churches! Today we have a reflection for October: Stand Firm in the midst of Chaos available for your personal formation. We also have prayer cards for Respect Life Month. Kindly bring these resources and your Church bulletin home with you weekly for deeper review and family discussion. Many thanks!

### *Stand Firm in the Midst of Chaos*

#### **. RESPECT LIFE MONTH 2021 | REFLECTION** ***St. Joseph: Faithful Protector of Mother and Child***



The infant Christ “came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph”. The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come.

While the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary to announce that she would bring forth the Savior of the world, it was revealed to *Joseph* in a series of dreams how God's plans would be brought to fulfillment. As Pope Francis highlights, “God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child”.

Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, “in every situation, Joseph declared his own ‘fiat’”. His “yes” to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.

During this Year of St. Joseph, each of us can find in him “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble”. Joseph shows us how to say “yes” to life, despite our own fears, frailties, and weaknesses. For it is Joseph who was “chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true ‘miracle’ by which God saves the child and his mother”.

May we, too, be miracles in the lives of those who are most in need, especially at the beginning and end of life. *Dear St. Joseph, you who were “able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence”, help us to imitate your faithful trust and courage.*

***Dear St. Joseph, help us to imitate your faithful trust and courage.***

# SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik      E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh**

**Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before and after Liturgies  
 Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the church office  
 Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Ask prior to surgery or serious illness  
 Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding  
 Religious Education Classes ..... September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy  
 St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate

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*On this Respect Life Sunday that our resolve may be strengthened to uphold the dignity of every human life; We pray to the Lord: Lord have Mercy.*

